

Deftones ROCK THE HOUSE

By Kellie Chittenden

DAILY STAFF WRITER

At about 4 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, six complete strangers were lined up to use Marie Sanchez's bathroom.

They were just six of the more than 200 people who gathered in her backyard in suburban Willow Glen for more than three hours.

Surveying the crowd, Marie Sanchez, 35, said, "I don't know any of these people."

Her husband, Jeff Sanchez, did. He invited them.

After all, it was his party.

And when the rock group, the Deftones, is headlining in your backyard, people will come.

Jeff Sanchez, 33, was the winner of the Band in Your Backyard contest sponsored by the Bay Area radio station Live 105.

"One night it was late, and I called, and I won tickets to (the Deftones concert at) San Jose State at the Event Center," Jeff Sanchez said.

Jeff explained that all the callers who won tickets to the show were automatically entered into a grand prize drawing to win a backyard concert by the Deftones.

"On Friday, they called and said I won the drawing."

A huge yellow Ryder rental truck, two black Live 105 trucks and the cars that concert-goers drove clogged the normally quiet cul-de-sac.

The Deftones arrived two-and-a-half hours late due to a plane delay, officials from Live 105 said. The band flew in to San Jose from Los Angeles, where they played a concert at the Roxy Theater on Tuesday night.

None of the fans were disappointed, however, when the band, led by lead singer Chino Moreno, took the stage — specially built in Sanchez's modest backyard earlier that morning.

For a powerful 40 minutes, the group rocked the neighborhood with crowd-energizing hits off their newest release, *White Pony*, which was No. 84 on the Billboard 200 list as of Sept. 30.

About 10 minutes into the show, Moreno climbed up one of the speakers and onto Sanchez's roof where he took a joint before throwing it into the crowd below.

A boy, who couldn't have been older than 18 picked it up and took a drag before passing it along.

"Our production manager, he was standing on the side of the stage," Moreno said after the show. "I looked at him, and then I saw him look up at the roof, and I pretty much figured that that was an invitation."

Sharon Codde, a freshman majoring in nursing and Sanchez's cousin, attended the concert.

During the set, she called her sister Michelle who was in class at SJSU and held the phone out the window for her to hear.

Before performing the band's current single "Change (In the House of Flies)," which is No. 5 this week on the Billboard Top 20 Modern Rock Tracks list, Moreno spotted a man chugging a 40-ounce beer in the middle of the crowd.

Moreno led the crowd in chanting, "Chug, chug, chug," as the man put away the entire beverage.

Moreno responded to the feat by dedicating the performance of "Change" to the man and switch-

ing the lyrics from "I watched you change/Into a Fly/I looked away" to, "I watched you chug/A whole 40 ounce/Your such a neat guy."

It was these types of unplanned nuances that made the Deftones unbelievably accessible to the crowd.

Moreno said the band did not arrive with a planned list of songs to play. Before every song he asked the crowd what they wanted to hear.

The crowd jumped and beat their heads with fists raised to the hard-edged rock songs.

Two security guards patrolled the event, and the San Jose Police Department was aware of the concert.

Some of the attendees and surrounding neighbors took to the fences for a better view.

Several times during the set, the anger conveyed in Moreno's lyrics inspired mosh pits among groups of the fans.

A group of eighth grade boys from Herman Middle School, including Sanchez's 13-year-old son, Michael, started their own mosh pit separate from the adults.

Michael sat in his room playing the computer game *Diablo II* while the crowd gathered outside. He said he had called in sick to his school.

Sanchez's 11 year-old daughter, Christine and youngest daughter also attended the concert.

The Deftones made an impromptu tribute to classic rock legend Steve Miller with short renditions of "Swingtown" and "Space Cowboy."

"That was fun. That's all that was," Moreno said after the concert.

Moreno said he doesn't consider the Steve Miller Band a direct inspiration for his music.

"I think music, in general, was my inspiration," he said.

Moreno stuck around for over a half an hour after the show, humbly talking to the fans and patiently signing autographs and taking pictures.

No one was denied a chance to meet the rock star.

Perhaps the biggest star of the concert, Sanchez waded through the crowd giving high fives and receiving thumbs-up gestures and pats on the back wherever he went.

The cost of the event including a \$160-per-day motor home parked in Sanchez's driveway and stocked with the band's specially requested Chianti, Sapporo Japanese beer and Bud Light was more than \$10,000, according to Live 105 promotion assistant David Mello.

Live 105's DJ with No Name, donning a Whinnie the Pooh costume, broadcasted live from Sanchez's backyard and interviewed Sanchez's neighbor, Jean Southerland.

No Name asked Southerland, 65, to give a neighbor's perspective on a Deftones home invasion.

"Well, I'm a little overwhelmed by just the equipment," Southerland said on the air. "I wanted to tell Jeff not to play it very loud."

Live 105 provided free earplugs to all attendees and Sanchez said



he warned his neighbors.

Katy Caselli's home is behind the Sanchez's.

A sign on her front door read, "Please don't ring doorbell. Toddler may be sleeping. Mommy needs well rested toddler."

Caselli said Sanchez informed her of the concert in advance, so she put her 2-year-old down for a nap early.

"I think it's fine," Caselli said. "It doesn't bother me at all. They were very considerate to come tell us, actually. It's kind of fun having excitement in the neighborhood."

During the final song, Moreno invited Sanchez and a number of fans on stage where they jumped and danced alongside Moreno, guitarist Stephen Carpenter, bass player Chi Chang and drummer Abe Cunningham.

The ambiance was that of a neighborhood garage band putting on show for the local high school.

"It's basically everything stripped down," Moreno said. "So it really shows the raw kind of side of what we do. It's kind of good. It kind of wakes you up a little bit. I enjoyed it, definitely."

The Deftones have gained popularity with the highly coveted youth market with numerous appearances on MTV's highest rated show, *Total Request Live*.

With fame comes a certain loss



of intimacy, Moreno said, adding that he enjoys doing impromptu shows such as this one.

"It's hard, you know, once you get bigger because you have to play bigger places," Moreno said. "What we're trying to do right now is, well, the places where we can sell out we're playing, like, places that are half the size. So opposed to playing like a 6,000-seater, we're trying to play two nights at a 3,000-seater so we can keep it kind of smaller."

The Deftones will be headlin-

Above, Deftones vocalist Chino Moreno sings to the audience that gathered in the backyard of Jeff Sanchez's house. Nicole Ramirez, one of the crowd in the concert, said that all of her friends from her junior high school would be proud that she was able to get close to the big band they love.

Right, Moreno climbed onto Jeff Sanchez's roof during the backyard concert sponsored by Live 105.

"They've got some good weed over here," Moreno said, before he tossed his joint to the crowd below.

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